Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace current paragraph [0022] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**[0012]** The invention will be described below in more detail on the basis of exemplary embodiments and with reference to the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 shows the beam routing through the beam splitter prisms or cubes used in the binocular beam path of a stereomicroscope; ~~and~~

FIG. 2 shows a plan view of the beam splitter cubes depicted in FIG. 1 and the associated optical switchers, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3A shows a plan view similar to that of FIG. 2 wherein the optical switchers are slidable prisms; and

FIG. 3B is a view similar to that of FIG 3A, wherein the optical switchers have been slidably switched as compared with FIG. 3A.--

Please replace current paragraph [0024] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**[0024]** FIG. 1 shows in perspective the beam routing through the beam splitter prisms or cubes used in the binocular beam path of a stereomicroscope. The beam splitter cubes used in the left beam path ~~l~~ L and right beam path ~~r~~ R are labeled with the reference characters α and β. Beams a and b (depicted with solid and dashed lines) coming from the microscope objectives encounter lower plane 11 (not visible in FIG. 1) of beam splitter cubes α and β, enter the beam splitter cubes, and are divided by the respective partially reflective plane 1 of beam splitter cubes α and β in accordance with the ratio (for example, 50:50) defined by the configuration or coating of said plane 1. Components a' or b' (depicted with dashed lines) that have been deflected 90° pass through rear plane 12 (also not visible in FIG. 1) of the beam splitter cubes and emerge therefrom, and can be imaged, for example, by an imaging module (not depicted in FIG. 1) such as a video unit and a photographic camera. The components (depicted with solid lines) that continue through plane 1 emerge from the respective (upper) plane 13 of the beam splitter cubes, pass through components (not depicted) of the stereomicroscope configured in usual fashion, and are then perceived by a viewer. Light arriving from a display unit (not depicted in FIG. 1) along beam paths A and B (depicted with dot-dash lines) at the respective (front) planes 14 of the beam splitter cubes is also divided by plane 1. Components A' and B' that have been deflected 90° are also perceived by the viewer. The component passing through plane 1 emerges from plane 12 together with beams a' and b'. If light a' and b' coming from the microscope objective is to be imaged by an imaging module, these beams interference with image acquisition.--

Please replace current paragraph [0026] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**[0026]** FIG. 2 depicts an exemplary embodiment of the invention which makes it possible to select in simple fashion whether reflection is to occur into the left ~~(l)~~ (L) or right ~~(r)~~ (R) beam path, and to image with an imaging module the light emerging from the other beam path.

Please replace current paragraph [0027] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0027] FIG. 2 shows a plan view of the arrangement depicted in perspective in FIG. 1, i.e. a view in the direction of the surface normal lines of plane 13. An imaging module 2 (only schematically depicted) is provided on the one side of the microscope beam path; a display module 3 (also only schematically depicted) is provided on the other side. The two modules 2 and 3 are arranged in such a way that their optical axes extend in the center between beam paths A and b' and a and B. Two rhomboid prisms 4 and 5, serving as optical switchers, are arranged between beam splitter cubes α and β and modules 2 and 3, respectively. Depending on the positions of rhomboid prisms 4 and 5, they connect imaging module 2 to left beam splitter cube α and display module 3 to right beam splitter cube β, or imaging module 2 to right beam splitter module β and display module 3 to left beam splitter cube α. It is particularly preferred in this context if the two rhomboid prisms 4 and 5 are arranged on a common shaft 6 (depicted with a dash-double-dot line), so that switching always occurs synchronously through 180° and the two modules are never simultaneously connected to the same channel. The reader is referred to FIG. 2 for further details.

Please insert the following new paragraph after current paragraph [0027]:

--[0028] FIGS. 3A and 3B show a plan views of an embodiment wherein the optical switchers are slidable prisms. A first optical switcher associated with imaging module 2 includes rhomboid prisms 4 and 4′ arranged in mirror image as shown, and a second optical switcher associated with display module 3 includes rhomboid prisms 5 and 5′ also arranged in mirror image as shown. In the position shown in FIG 3A, prism 4 connects imaging module 2 to left beam splitter cube α, and prism 5 connects display module 3 to right beam splitter cube β. Prisms 4 and 4′ of the first optical switcher are slidable as indicated by the double arrow, to a position shown in FIG. 3B wherein prism 4′ connects imaging module 2 to right beam splitter cube β and prism 4 no longer connects imaging module 2 to left beam splitter cube α. In similar fashion, prisms 5 and 5′ are slidable to the position shown in FIG. 3B wherein prism 5′ connects display module 3 to left beam splitter cube α and prism 5 no longer connects display module 3 to right beam splitter cube β.--

Please move paragraphs [0012] through [0021] from the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION to the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION by inserting them after new paragraph [0028] and consecutively renumbering all paragraphs after paragraph [0011].